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RESERVE

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LARGER TURKEY CROP EXPECTED THIS YEAR

Turkey growers plan to raise about 37 million turkeys this year, according to February 1 returns from over 5,000 farmers throughout the United States. This would be the largest crop of turkeys ever produced in this country--12 percent larger than the 1942 crop. Turkey producers in the West North Central States, who produced 33 percent of the turkeys raised in 1942, plan an increase of 11 percent this year. In the Western States, which produced 27 percent of the 1942 crop, the expected increase is 17 percent; East North Central, 14 percent; South Atlantic, 10 percent; and in the South Central States, 4 percent. The largest percentage increase is 19 percent in the North Atlantic States, where only 7 percent of the 1942 crop was produced. A sharp increase in expected poult is shown this year in flocks with less than 100 turkeys last year. For these flocks there is reported only a moderate increase in poult to be home hatched but a large increase in intended purchases of hatchery poult, especially in the North Atlantic, North Central and Western States.

Some difference between February indications and actual performance is to be expected, the difference depending on the supply and price of hatching eggs, poult prices, the availability and cost of high protein feeds and the willingness of growers to accept late hatched poult. In former years the February 1 intention has slightly exceeded actual performance, in 1938 by 3 percent, in 1939 and 1940 by 2 percent, in 1941 by less than 1 percent, and in 1942 by 8 percent. A smaller home hatch last year than was expected, with low egg fertility, a poor demand for late hatched poult and a large death loss in brooding prevented any increase in the 1942 turkey crop over 1941, although hatchery production of poult was up 8 percent.

Although there are fewer breeder hens by 1 percent than last year, poult hatchings began earlier and in greater volume this year. Hatcheries report exceptionally large early orders for poult and many hatcheries have contracted their entire capacity for the season. Hatching eggs are in strong demand at prices higher than usual. In order to meet February 1 expectations growers will have to greatly increase the number of home hatched poult and buy more late hatched poult than last year.

SLIGHT DECREASE IN BREEDER HENS THIS YEAR

The number of turkey breeding hens on hand January 1 of this year was about 1 percent less than a year ago. The South Atlantic, South Central and West North Central States show decreases of 4, 5 and 9 percent respectively, while other areas show increases of 3 to 13 percent. The largest increase was 13 percent in the Western States, where producers in Oregon, Washington and California specialize in the production of turkey eggs for hatching. These Pacific Coast States have 21 percent of the Nation's breeding flock.

About 30 percent of the Nation's breeder hens are located in the West North Central States and 25 percent in the Western States. Texas with 609,000 has the largest number of breeder hens, followed by California with 492,000. However, because of a larger egg production per hen -- 33.4 eggs, California produced about 16 million eggs in 1942, compared with 13 million in Texas.

Turkey Hens On Hand And Intentions to Raise Turkeys In 1943

State and Division	Turkey hens on hand Jan 1			Turkeys raised			
	1942	1943		1942	Intended in 1943		
		Number	% 1942		Number	% 1942	
		Thousands	Percent		Thousands	Percent	
Maine	:	5	5	100	48	49	102
N. H.	:	6	7	120	69	90	130
Vt.	:	11	12	110	170	196	115
Mass.	:	25	30	120	240	283	120
R. I.	:	3	3	110	25	32	128
Conn.	:	13	15	118	114	148	130
New York	:	40	37	92	420	525	125
New Jersey	:	13	15	115	138	166	120
Pa.	:	66	64	97	1020	1173	1115
N. ATL.	:	182	188	103.3	2244	2667	1118
Ohio	:	67	60	90	896	941	105
Ind.	:	45	52	115	394	512	130
Ill.	:	53	72	125	662	722	109
Mich.	:	55	55	100	472	519	110
Wis.	:	40	48	120	504	630	125
E. N. CENT.	:	265	287	108.3	2928	3324	1113
Minn.	:	236	257	90	3207	3528	110
Iowa	:	138	128	93	1729	1902	110
Mo.	:	221	221	100	1359	1631	120
N. Dak.	:	202	172	85	1212	1333	110
S. Dak.	:	180	144	80	1000	1070	107
Nebr.	:	142	128	90	1260	1386	110
Kans.	:	147	150	102	1064	1170	110
W. N. CENT.	:	1316	1200	91.2	10831	12020	111.
Delaware	:	13	11	85	113	113	100
Maryland	:	52	47	90	405	450	111
Virginia	:	105	103	98	902	992	110
W. Va.	:	30	26	86	270	297	110
N. C.	:	45	38	85	268	300	112
S. C.	:	38	42	111	155	170	110
Ga.	:	28	31	110	149	168	120
Fla.	:	23	24	104	115	118	103
S. ATL.	:	334	322	96.4	2368	2608	110
Kentucky	:	47	49	105	310	341	110
Tenn.	:	33	33	100	196	206	105
Alabama	:	39	41	105	170	196	115
Mississippi	:	44	44	100	143	160	112
Ark.	:	26	26	100	140	140	100
La.	:	22	19	88	61	67	110
Oklahoma	:	225	180	80	1122	1178	105
Texas	:	621	609	98	3724	3798	102
S. CENT.	:	1057	1001	94.7	5366	6086	103.
Mont.	:	29	26	90	276	290	105
Idaho	:	19	22	115	273	328	120
Wyo.	:	20	16	80	176	185	105
Colo.	:	65	55	85	888	977	110
New Mexico	:	13	16	123	55	69	125
Arizona	:	13	12	92	74	81	110
Utah	:	26	34	130	1166	1632	140
Nev.	:	55	6	120	36	54	150
Washington	:	84	113	135	1096	1425	130
Oregon	:	196	225	115	1726	1899	110
California	:	428	492	115	3139	3453	110
WEST.	:	898	1017	113.3	8905	10393	116.
U. S.	:	4052	4015	99.1	33142	37098	111.

The average weight per bird sold alive in 1942 was 16.3 pounds -- 0.4 pounds heavier than in 1941 and 1.2 pounds heavier than in 1940. The average weight has increased gradually since 1930. The largest increase has taken place in the Western States where the broad-breasted turkey is found in greatest numbers and birds are raised to heavier weights for the hotel and restaurant trade.

The average turkey hen sold in the United States in 1942 weighed 13.0 pounds live and 11.6 pounds dressed and the average tom weighed 19.6 pounds live and 17.6 pounds dressed. Hens sold in the Western States in 1942 average 7 percent heavier than in any other area in the United States and toms averaged 13 percent heavier.

AVERAGE WEIGHT PER TURKEY WHEN SOLD IN 1942

Geographic Division	Hens		Toms		All	
	Alive : Dressed		Alive : Dressed		Alive : Dressed	
	Pounds					
North Atlantic	13.0	11.4	19.6	17.4	16.3	14.4
East North Central	12.5	11.0	18.7	16.6	15.6	13.8
West North Central	12.8	11.4	19.2	17.0	14.2	12.8
South Atlantic	12.3	10.7	18.1	16.3	15.2	13.5
South Central	12.1	11.0	17.5	15.8	14.8	13.4
Western	13.9	12.4	22.1	20.2	18.0	16.3
United States	13.0	11.6	19.6	17.6	16.3	14.6

LARGEST DEATH LOSS OF TURKEYS IN 1942

The loss of turkey poult in 1942 was the largest in 6 years. It was 28.8 percent of the number bought and home hatched compared with 27.8 percent in 1941 and 26.6 percent, the 5-year (1937-41) average. Wet weather during May and June, reaching flood proportions in some areas, was very unfavorable for poult and caused heavy losses. In all parts of the country except the South Central and Western the loss of poult was larger than in 1941. The heaviest loss is usually in the South Central States where there is a larger proportion of small flocks than elsewhere in the United States.

Breeding stock losses during 1942 averaged 11.1 percent compared with 10.1 percent in 1941 and 10.5 percent, the 5-year average. They were the heaviest in the last 5 years. Breeder losses were larger in 1942 than in 1941 in all parts of the country except the West North Central and Western States where they were equal to or lighter than in 1941.

DEATH LOSS OF TURKEYS

Geographic Division	Young turkeys lost as a		Breeding stock lost as		Percent	
	percent of total numbers		Percent of numbers on			
	bought and home hatched		hand January 1			
	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	
North Atlantic	16	17	19	17	19	
East North Central	21	20	19	21	23	
West North Central	23	23	29	24	28	
South Atlantic	31	35	28	27	31	
South Central	38	38	31	45	43	
Western	20	19	20	22	21	
United States	26.3	26.0	25.9	27.8	28.8	

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